EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
PENDLETON COUNTY
PO Box 187
Franklin, WV 26807
(304) 668-2822
April 1, 2025

Federal Communications Commission
Re: Docket 25-133
National Radio Quiet Zone Regulations

Dear Commissioners,

As the Emergency Services Coordinator for Pendleton County, WV, I wish to voice opposition to the National Radio Quiet Zone restrictions as currently written. The NRQZ limitations placed on States, Counties and localities was developed in the late 1950's. The regulations result in an unfunded federal mandate on our jurisdictions and is restricting effective public safety communications.

It is the mission of Pendleton County Office of Emergency Management/911 (PCOEM) to provide for the safety and security of our county citizens, to include providing direct law enforcement and emergency management/911 functions, as well as communications support to all county Fire and EMS agencies;

PCOEM believes that the National Radio Quiet Zone (NRQZ), whose regulations were first adopted in the late 1950's has not kept pace with the modern wireless communications tools used by first responders and our citizens;

The NRQZ is an ever-growing unfunded federal mandate on our county emergency services/911 operation wherein it causes us to spend large amounts of funding building a larger number of tower sites than would be needed absent the NRQZ restrictions;

PCOEM believes that the NRQZ Agencies should fully fund and support filtration of unwanted signals at the head-end of the NRQZ-Agency equipment and not by unfunded mandates of reductions and nulls of signal imposed on the public safety, cellular and satellite internet providers;

The NRQZ inhibits widespread growth of commercial cellular/wireless systems throughout Pendleton County, thereby greatly diminishing the use of AT&T First Net and similar systems by first responders and commercial cellular systems by our current and prospective citizens, businesses, and tourists, all to the detriment of our economic well-being;

Well-prepared and vibrant communities are not restricted in any way by the NRQZ. Being the host of Sugar Grove Research Station and in close proximity to Green Bank Observatory, Pendleton County is highly-impacted in a negative and unfunded way by the NRQZ, placing us at an unfair disadvantage to areas outside the NRQZ, with no consideration or support from the federal government.

PCOEM voices its opposition to continued enforcement of NRQZ restrictions absent significant federal funding to allow us to better meet said restrictions; further

While we prefer modification of the NRQZ rules and increased, immediate cooperation from the NRQZ agencies in providing us regulatory relief, absent such cooperation and immediate relief and assistance, then we request dissolution of the NRQZ Regulations. PCOEM fully supports total waivers of any NRQZ restrictions imposed on Public Safety Radio Frequency Bands currently in use, as well as all the commercial cellular/wireless Bands, and commercial satellite internet providers, such as Starlink, throughout the NRQZ.

Respectfully,

R D Gillespie

Rick Gillespie
Emergency Services Coordinator